

HOUSE No. 1176

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Walter F. Timilty

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act Establishing a Special Commission Relative to Reducing the Costs Associated with the Purchase of College Textbooks.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Walter F. Timilty	7th Norfolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO REDUCING THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PURCHASE OF COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. A special commission is hereby established to investigate and study the
2 college textbook industry. The investigation and study shall include, but not be limited to, examining the
3 costs of purchasing textbooks and study materials, reviewing information concerning offering a choice
4 of lower cost texts, such as soft cover, one color and digital texts, exploring the effective use of E-
5 textbooks, reviewing changes in editions and the cost savings related to maintaining a current edition
6 over purchasing the most recent edition, encouraging colleges to implement comprehensive and
7 controlled buy-back and book swap programs to reduce costs for students, providing incentives to
8 those schools that offer such programs and expanding the information available to purchasers of
9 textbooks so that faculty and students alike are provided with a complete view of all available textbooks
10 for comparison purposes. The commission shall be appointed by the governor and shall consist of 15
11 members as follows: the house and senate chairmen of the joint committee on higher education, 1
12 member of the house of representatives, 1 member of the senate, 1 member of the University of
13 Massachusetts administration or a designee, 1 member of the State College Council of Presidents or a
14 designee, 1 member of the Community College Council of Presidents or a designee, 1 member of
15 A.C.U.M. or a designee, 2 representatives of the college textbook publishing industry with offices in the
16 commonwealth, 1 faculty member of a public college of the commonwealth, 1 college librarian and 1
17 student trustee of a public college or the University of Massachusetts. The commission shall report to
18 the general court the results of its study, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry such
19 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the house of representatives on or
20 before December 31, 2009.